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23 March 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the National Disaster Support Task Group

1. The third meeting of National Disaster Support Task Group was convened at 1330 hours on 17 March 1970 at the USGS facility in Reston, Virginia.
2. A slight mix-up concerning meeting time was encountered since the time decided upon at the previous meeting had been 1300 hours while the minutes of the meeting had stated 1330 hours. Henceforth, all meetings will begin at 1300 hours. Changing to an in-town location was again mentioned but defeated by a member vote. We will continue to meet at Reston.

4. In order to more effectively accomplish our goal, [redacted] had prepared a plan for establishment of five committees within the Disaster Support Task Group. This approach was presented and approved

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by all members present. Each committee is to investigate a specific area of responsibility as follows:

Committee No. 1 - Identify platform resources (ie. ascertain what aircraft, camera systems, and/or sensor systems are available for disaster use.)

Committee No. 2 - Identify the tasking channels between civilian and DOD commands and also between civilian agencies. These channels are necessary for requesting disaster coverage.

Committee No. 3 - Identify sources of photographic interpreters which could be tasked with disaster situation analysis.

Committee No. 4 - Identify the communications network for passing information to the President and/or other interested parties.

Committee No. 5 - Classify all disasters and identify the type of coverage needed.

Resources necessary for the achievement of our goals are available, what is needed now, is coordination. Once our Support Task Group has established a working procedure, a small secretariat comprised of Task Group members will be maintained to administrate the procedure. Remaining Task Group members will be available on call for additional support. The question was raised concerning the use of commercial aerial photographic companies in obtaining disaster coverage. Since, however, our prime need, in a reconnaissance supplier, is a quick response time (occasionally within hours of the disaster) the DOD units are better organized and equipped to satisfy our requirements.

5. Snow conditions in the New England area are being monitored by ESSA since the present snow pack is a potential source of heavy spring flooding. The recent snow storm which deposited from 15 to 30 inches of wet snow in the North Dakota - Minnesota region is also of great concern to ESSA as a rapid spring warming could produce

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severe flooding. [] was asked if photographic coverage of these areas would be of value in assessing the snow condition. He stated that snow depth and water content were the main questions and that photography, even infrared sensors could not presently provide such answers. He said he would delve further into the problem to determine if photographic coverage could be helpful.

7. The next Disaster Support Task Group meeting is scheduled for 24 March 1970.

Section I
Image Evaluation Branch
APSD/TSSG/NPIC

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